



WELLINGTON (SOM) RURAL

DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1952.

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By

DR. HUGH MORRISON

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



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WELLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1952.

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WELLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1952

I. GENERAL

Area (in Acres) ... ..	37,911.
Estimate of Resident Population, mid year, 1952...	7,768.
Census Population (Preliminary Report 1951). ... ..	7,804.
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books on 31st December, 1952. ... ..	2,419.
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1952. ... ..	£31,965.
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate, 31st December, 1952. ... ..	£131. 9. 5.

II. EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR, 1952.

Live Births:-	M.	F.	TOTAL
(a) Legitimate ... ..	71	59	130
Illegitimate ... ..	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
	73	61	134
(b) Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... ..	...	...	17.25.

Still births:-	M.	F.	TOTAL
(a) Legitimate ... ..	1	2	3
Illegitimate ... ..	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	1	2	3
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popn., ... ..	...	...	0.39.
(b) Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) ... ..	...	...	17.65.

Deaths:-	
(a) Total ... ..	102.
(b) Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ....	13.13.

	Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Births
From puerperal sepsis ... ..	-	-
From other maternal causes ... ..	-	-
Of infants under one year of age. ... ..	-	-
Legitimate ... ..	3	-
Illegitimate ... ..	-	-
Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	...	22.38
Rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births ... ..	...	23.07
Rate for illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births ..	...	-
From cancer (all ages) ... ..	11	-
From measles (all ages) ... ..	-	-
From whooping cough (all ages) ... ..	-	-
From diarrhoea (under two years of age) ... ..	-	-
Rates for England and Wales as a whole:-		
Live births per 1,000 civilian population ... ..	...	15.30.
Stillbirths per 1,000 civilian population ... ..	...	0.35.
Deaths (all causes) per 1,000 civilian population. ... ..	...	11.30.
Maternal Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (live and still births) ... ..	...	0.72.
Infant Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (live and still births) ... ..	...	27.60.



CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1952

	M.	F.	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	-	1	1
Tuberculosis, other.....	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease.....	-	-	-
Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections.....	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-
Measles.....	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.....	3	2	5
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	-	-	-
Diabetes.....	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	5	13	18
Coronary disease, angina.....	7	8	15
Hypertension with heart disease.....	3	2	5
Other heart disease.....	5	13	18
Other circulatory disease.....	2	4	6
Influenza.....	-	-	-
Pneumonia.....	2	1	3
Bronchitis.....	-	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system.....	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	1	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis.....	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate.....	1	-	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	-	-
Congenital malformation.....	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	9	5	14
Motor vehicle accidents.....	-	-	-
All other accidents.....	2	2	4
Suicide.....	1	-	1
Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-	-
All causes - Total	44	58	102

INFANT MORTALITY DURING 1952

Cause of death	Under one week	One to two weeks	One to six months	Six to twelve months	Total under one year.
Prematurity	1	-	-	-	1
Cerebral haemorrhage	1	-	-	-	1
Atelactasis of both lungs	1	-	-	-	1
Total	3	-	-	-	3



DOMICILIARY SERVICES

There are three general medical practitioners living and carrying on practice in the rural district. Practitioners from Wellington and from the neighbouring districts also cover some of the territory. There are adequate arrangements, when required, for domiciliary consultation with consultants serving the Taunton and West Somerset Area, and speaking generally, the practice of medicine in the district is of a high standard. The provisions for domiciliary nursing are satisfactory and a good beginning has been made with the Home Help Service administered by the Somerset County Council.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Hospital Services of the district are administered by the Taunton Hospital Management Committee, under the general direction of the S.W. Regional Hospital Board. Some of the provisions for the needs of various types of patient are detailed below:-

(1) General Medical and Surgical

The Taunton and Somerset Hospital together with Musgrove Park Hospital which is also situated in the Borough of Taunton, and which is probably eventually destined to supersede the first-named establishment, cater for most medical and surgical conditions. Musgrove Park Hospital takes most of the adult cases, and also has a comprehensive Paediatric Department. The Taunton and Somerset Hospital is in the meantime dealing with Orthopaedics, Ophthalmology and Ear, Nose and Throat work. It also houses the Casualty Department for the area. Both hospitals have out-patient facilities in addition to in-patient beds. Certain cases requiring special investigation or treatment such as neurosurgery or radiotherapy are referred to Bristol Hospitals for this purpose. Wellington Cottage Hospital provides valuable facilities for local cases which do not require to be sent to larger institutions, and complete consultant cover is available for the work carried out there.

(2) Infectious Diseases

Cases of infectious diseases from Wellington Rural District are sent to the Taunton Isolation Hospital, situated in the Borough of Taunton. This hospital was administered up to 4th July, 1948 by a Joint Hospital Board, representing the various districts from which cases were admitted. Since that date, administration has passed to the Regional Hospital Board, with day to day management being carried out by the Taunton Hospital Management Committee. There are three large wards for the isolation and treatment of patients suffering from the commoner epidemic diseases, but these have become less useful since Diphtheria has become a rare condition, chiefly owing to the success of the national immunisation campaign, and since Scarlet Fever has apparently entered a mild phase in which most of the cases can be successfully isolated and nursed at home. The bulk of the Isolation Hospital work is done in a more recently constructed cubicle block. The hospital has been admitting in the past year or two many cases, especially among children, of various pyrexial and nutritional illnesses not coming into the strict category of notifiable diseases, which would formerly have been treated in General Hospitals. Home isolation is carried out wherever the home conditions are satisfactory. Most cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are admitted to the Isolation Hospital and also cases of Puerperal Pyrexia.

Tuberculosis: Cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the Regional Hospital Board for treatment which is supervised by the Chest Physicians for the area. The Sanatoria are at Quantock, Wincanton, and Taunton for Pulmonary cases. Cases requiring Orthopaedic treatment are admitted to Chard Sanatorium and to Bath Orthopaedic Hospital. Pre-Tubercular children and children with Tubercular Glands are sent to Compton Bishop Children's Home, near Axbridge.



Poliomyelitis: Suspected cases are sent for diagnosis to the Taunton Isolation Hospital. If the condition is confirmed they are seen by Regional Specialists who arrange for continuation treatment either as out-patients or as in-patients at Bath Orthopaedic Hospital.

Small-pox: Provision for the accommodation of cases of Small-pox is made at a Hospital at Cossington, near Bridgwater. Fortunately there has been no need to use the institution for this purpose for many years.

General Medical and Surgical: Investigation and treatment facilities are provided at the Cottage Hospital in Wellington and at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital. Some cases of a more special type are sent to Bristol.

Chronic Sick: Patients are received into Hospitals, chiefly those in Taunton and Wellington, which have now passed from Public Assistance administration to that of the Regional Hospital Board. The status and reputation of these institutions is improving, more or less rapidly, as their association with the less desirable features of the old Poor Law fades from public memory. A geriatric service for the Taunton area is in process of development.

Legal Powers are now available under the National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47, for the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention. No formal action of this kind required to be taken in the Rural District of Wellington during 1951.

Mental Sick: Cases are admitted to the Mental Hospital at Tone Vale, near Taunton. The psychiatric specialists conduct out-patients clinics for the area, and it is felt that now, more than ever before, mental patients are having the benefit of treatment at an earlier and more hopeful stage of the disease.

Mentally defective cases are well provided for at Sandhill Park Hospital which is situated in Taunton Rural District.

#### Clinics and Treatment Centres.

##### Tuberculosis:

Clinics for patients suffering from this disease and for the supervision of suspects and contacts, are held by the Chest Physicians at Musgrove Park Hospital. There is an After-Care Committee working in co-operation with these clinics. Mass radiography has been carried out from time to time on various groups of the County population, by a team working from a centre in Bristol, but this service has not been called upon to deal with residents in Wellington Rural District.

##### Venereal Disease:

A combined Clinic and Treatment Centre is carried on at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital which caters for male and female patients of this and surrounding districts. The centre has now come under the administration of the Regional Hospital Board.

Early cases of syphilis are usually sent to Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, for a fortnight's intensive penicillin treatment as in-patients. Afterwards they continue observation and treatment at the Taunton Clinic.

## Maternity and Child Welfare:

The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council, under whose supervision are also the Health Visitors and Midwives practising within the area. There is an excellent Maternity Home in the Urban District o-f Wellington to which a considerable number of women from the Rural District are admitted for confinement. Obstetric Consultants in Taunton are available for consultation with Medical Practitioners in the District. Abnormal and complicated cases can be admitted for hospital treatment when necessary. Every case of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal Mortality is investigated by the Medical Staff of the County Council.

## Laboratory Facilities:

The Public Health Laboratory Service has a Laboratory in Taunton at which all the usual specimens connected with Public Health work, such as throat and nose swabs, blood, faeces, and sputum are examined. The Staff of the Laboratory also give very useful assistance in the investigation of epidemic outbreaks. Chemical Analyses are carried out as requested by the County Analyst who has his Laboratory in Taunton.

## Ambulance Facilities:

Ambulance transport for all cases has now become the responsibility of the Somerset County Council. A central ambulance department has been set up which arranges for vehicles to be provided as required.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### WATER SUPPLY

Public Supplies serve the following areas :-

Milverton P.S.            Parish of Milverton (except outlying parts).

Wiveliscombe P.S.    Parish of Wiveliscombe.

Chipstable P.S.        Chipstable Village.

Sampford Moor P.S.    Sampford Moor Village.

Langley P.S.            Lower part of Langley.

Langley Marsh P.S.    Part of Langley Marsh.

Taunton Borough Supply    Bradford-on-Tone  
West Buckland (part)  
Oake.

Taunton R.D.C. (Bagborough) Supply    Fitzhead.

Langford Budville P.S.    Langford Budville Village.



Small Supplies vested in the Council by virtue of Sect: 124 Public Health Act, 1936 serve the following areas :-

<u>Ashbottle</u> (Public Pump)	- Ashbottle Village.
<u>Bathealton</u> (Public Pump)	- Bathealton Village.
<u>Stawley</u>	- Greenham and Tracebridge.
<u>Wellington Without</u>	- Holywell Lake (part).
<u>Thorne St. Margaret</u>	- Village (part).
<u>Wiveliscombe Without</u>	- Maundown (part).

There are private piped supplies at :-

<u>Milverton</u>	- Preston Bowyer (2 supplies). - Springgrove.
<u>Langford Budville</u>	- Bindon - Wellisford.
<u>Stawley</u>	- Appley - Cothay - Kittisford.
<u>Wellington Without</u>	- Holywell Lake (part).
<u>West Buckland</u>	- Poole.

The remainder of the district is supplied by individual wells, (mainly shallow), springs etc. Many of these are contaminated and some are liable to fail.

Wiveliscombe and Milverton public supplies and Taunton Borough Supply are chlorinated. Elackmoor P.S. and two small public supplies at Langford Budville are to be chlorinated. Users of water obtained from supplies at Ashbottle, Holywell Lake, Tracebridge and Thorne-St-Margaret have been advised that the water should be boiled.

Shortages on main supplies are experienced at Langford Budville and Lowe-r Langley. In the latter case the cause is probably inadequate or corroded mains and services.

During the year the Milverton mains were extended from Houndsmoor to Bick-ley to supply domestic and agricultural demand, and a source known to be contaminated at Langford Budville was eliminated.

Bacteriological examinations and chemical analyses were made with the following results :-

<u>RAW WATER</u>				<u>TREATED WATER</u>			
BACTERIOLOGICAL		CHEMICAL		BACTERIOLOGICAL		CHEMICAL	
Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.
44	31	11	-	25	4	1	-

WELL WATERSATISFACTORYUNSATISFACTORY

CHEMICAL	BACTERIOLOGICAL	CHEMICAL	BACTERIOLOGICAL
1	36	-	47

None of the supplies are known to have plumbo-solvent action.

WATER SUPPLIES FROM PUBLIC MAINS

## Direct to Houses

## By Standpipes

No. of Dwellinghouses	Population	No. of Dwellinghouses	Popln
929	3,284	119	398

Future Proposals

The South-Western part of the district will probably be supplied from Ashbrittle where it is proposed to bore for water. The extent of this supply must depend on the result of the boring operation.

The supply to the remainder of the district is dependant upon the Taun-ton Borough scheme to draw water from Clatworthy, except for Bathealton and Chipstable (Waterrow) where small separate schemes are proposed.

Proposed main extensions for domestic and agricultural needs are:-

Milverton to Ford Bridge and Preston Bowyer.

Oake - Hillfarrance to Allerford.

The following Summary shows in alphabetical order, the present water supplies in the District by Parishes, giving their acreage and population according to the Census of 1951.

ASHBRITTLE: 2,158 Acres. 190 Population.

Pump on Village Green. Remainder by wells.

BATHEALTON: 2,598 Acres. 190 Popn.,

Pum-p to well near Rectory. Remainder by wells and springs.

BRADFORD: 1,814 Acres. 440 Popn.,

Piped supply through Parish from Taunton Corporation mains.

CHIPSTABLE: 2,455 Acres. 290 Popn.,

Well supp-ly laid on to three houses - Standpipes for remainder of village.

Remainder of parish, wells and springs, mainly unsatisfactory.

FITZHEAD: 1,247 Acres. 210 Popn.,

Piped supply from Taunton R.D., mains at Halse. All but three houses are supplied from this main.



LANGFORD BUDVILLE: 2,234 Acres. 390 Popn.,

The three small piped supplies were acquired by the Council during 1949. The quality of the water varies and cannot be considered to be satisfactory.

Shortages are frequently experienced.

MILVERTON: 3,465 Acres. 1,250 Popn.,

Piped supply from covered reservoir at Furbers Well. Minimum Yield 12,000 G.P.D., normal 30,000 G.P.D.,

Two springs below Furbers Well. Minimum Yield 3,400 G.P.D., normal 40,000 G.P.D.,

Pumped to reservoir by Diesel 3 h.p., Lister Engine with Easton and Johnson Treble Ram Pump, 2,500 G.P.H., or Lister 2½ h.p., Petrol Engine, 1,400 G.P.H., Borehole at Olands feeds into 6-inch trunk main by means of Beresford Submersible Electric Pump with booster pump at ground level. Output 1,400 G.P.H.,

Outlying parts of the parish are not supplied from the main, Preston Bowyer is served by two private supplies. On analysis one of these is generally satisfactory; the other varies bacteriologically. Springrove is supplied by a small private piped supply.

NYNEHEAD: 1,706 Acres. 350 Popn.,

16 Council houses supplied through pipes by storage tank and electric pump from well, known to be contaminated.

Private piped supply and private wells. Most of the wells are shallow and the supplies unsatisfactory.

OAKE: 1,754 Acres. 360 Popn.,

Supplied by wells and springs. Mains have been laid to supply this parish (excepting some outlying properties) from Taunton Corporation Supply.

Most of the houses near the mains have been connected.

SAMPFORD ARUNDEL: 1,216 Acres. 310 Popn.,

Sampford Moor is supplied by spring from covered collecting tank and piped to hamlet.

Remainder springs and wells.

STAWLEY: 2,663 Acres. 270 Popn.,

Greenham :- Small piped supply.

Tracebridge :- Small supply (known to be contaminated) one standpipe.

Privately owned piped supplies serve properties at Appley, Cothay and Kittisford.

Remainder by wells and springs.

THORNE ST. MARGARET: 824 Acres. 90 Popn.,

There is one small piped supply in the centre of the village. The remainder is supplied by springs and wells.

WELLINGTON WITHOUT: 2,933 Acres. 480 Popn.,

Holywell Lake is supplied by public springs with shute, and a privately owned piped supply.

Remainder is by wells and springs.

WEST BUCKLAND: 3,739 Acres. 810 Popn.,

Blackmoor is supplied by spring from covered collection tank and piped to hamlet. This supply is liable to contamination. West Buckland village and district has piped supply from Taunton Corporation mains.

WIVELISCOMBE: 201 Acres. 1,224 Popn.,

Water is obtained from springs at Withycombe gathering ground to a covered reservoir and piped to the Town. Minimum Yield 16,000 G.P.D., Capacity of reservoir 36,000 gallons. The water is chlorinated, the plant being a Wallace and Tiernan Automatic Chlorometer in duplicate. Water is obtained from a borehole 285 feet deep and pumped by a 15 h.p., Electric Motor direct mounted on a vertical spindle deep well turbine pump with 14 stages at bottom, 4 stages booster pump at top. (Mirrlees Watson Engineering Co., Ltd., Glasgow). Delivers 5,400 gallons per hour into 4 inch service main from reservoir. The plant is not duplicated.

WIVELISCOMBE WI-THOUT: 5,904 Acres. 950 Popn.,

Langley Cross and Lower Langley supplied by spring from covered collection tank and piped to Hamlet.

Borehole at Langley Marsh serves seven properties.

Small Spring supply at Maundown. Remainder springs and wells.

### Sewage Disposal

The Ministry of Housing & Local Government held an Inquiry into the proposed reconstruction of sewers and disposal works and extension of sewers to Preston. At the end of the year their decision was awaited.

Schemes are being prepared for Wiveliscombe - reconstruction of Hillsmoor Sewage Disposal Works and for new sewerage systems at West Buckland, Langford Budville, Fitzhead, Sampford Arundel and Bradford-on-Tone.

The provision of sewers and sewage disposal works for about 30 houses at Oake is in progress.

The existing Sewerage and Sewage Disposal of the district is as follows :-

ASHERITTLE: 2,158 Acres. 190 Population.

Septic tank for four Council houses.

A sewer in the centre of the village taking waste water only.

A few properties have septic tanks but most have pail closets, with waste water drainage to ditches etc.

BATHEALTON: 2,598 Acres. 190 Popn.,

A few privately owned septic tanks.

Others have slop water drains to ditches, etc., and pail closets.



BRADFORD: 1,814 Acres. 440 Popn.,

Most properties in the centre of the village drain by a sewer to Gigleys Pit near the roadside leading to Hele. This gives rise to nuisances.

Eight Council Houses drain to a septic tank and filter.

Properties at Heatherton are sewered to septic tanks.

Certain other pro-perties have private septic tanks.

CHIPSTABLE: 3,455 Acres. 290 Popn.,

There is a small sewer taking waste water only in the centre of the villa-ge.

Various oth-er properties have septic tanks, including four Council houses at Waterrow and four at Chipstable Village.

Some properties at Waterrow drain to the river but little nuisance is experienced.

FITZHEAD: 1,247 Acres. 210 Popn.,

Sewers serving most of the village are unsatisfactory and there are no proper disposal works. Complaints of nuisance arise from time to time. Council houses have separate disposal works, one at Church Road being unsatisfactory.

LANGFORD BUDVILLE: 2,234 Acres. 390 Popn.,

Most of the village drains to a field known as Petersmead, but although most of the drainage passes through septic tanks, a nuisance is caused on adjoining fields.

Certain other properties drain to a ditch at the rear of the Martlett Inn. Most proper-ties have W.C.'s but some have pails.

MILVERTON: 3,465 Acres. 1,250 Popn.,

Two settlement tanks with scumboards - total capacity about 20,000 gallons and effluent then passes over seven weirs, through about 700 yards of open land treatment to Hillfarrance brook.

Sewage from certain properties at Preston Bowyer passes into open ditches.

NYNEHEAD: 1,706 Acres. 350 Popn.,

The school and certain other properties connect to a small sewer at Lower Nynehead.

There are no disposal works and pollution and nuisance are caused.

16 Council Houses are drained to a septic tank and filter. A few other properties have septic tanks but most of the cottages have pail closets with slop-water drainage to ditches, etc.

OAKE: 1,754 Acres. 360 Popn.,

There is a small sewer serving the school and adjoining properties.

10 Council houses and certain other properties drain to septic tanks.

Many of the cottages have pail closets and waste water drainage to streams, etc.

SAMPFORD ARUNDEL: 1,216 Acres. 310 Popn.,

There are small sewers serving properties at Sampford Moor, Sampford Village and Beambridge. Nuisances are created by the discharge of sewage into ditches.

Septic tank to four Council houses.

STAWLEY: 2,663 Acres. 270 Popn.,  
Certain houses have septic tanks but most houses have pail closets and  
slop-water drainage to ditches.  
New Council houses at Appley drain to septic tank and filter.

THORNE ST. MARGARET: 824 Acres. 90 Popn.,  
Private tanks to some houses.  
Remainder have pail closets.

WELLINGTON WITHOUT: 2,933 Acres. 480 Popn.,  
There is a sewer with temporary disposal works at Holywell Lake.  
Certain other properties have septic tanks and other pail closets with  
waste water, drainage to soakaways etc.

WEST BUCKLAND: 3,739 Acres. 810 Popn.,  
Council house estates and certain other properties drain to septic  
tanks.  
Most of the village drainage discharges into a ditch near the school  
and gives rise to nuisance.  
  
About 30 houses at Ham drain to tanks and filter; other sewers exist at  
Hockaller and Willowbrook.  
Certain other properties have pail closets.

WIVELISCOMBE: 201 Acres. 1,224 Popn.,  
All properties drain to sewers which take a good deal of surface water  
also and are mainly defective.

Sewage passes to two sewage works at Hillsmoor and Style.

Hillsmoor: Treatment consists of screening and settling only.  
The effluent passing into the stream is unsatisfactory.

Style: These works have been reconstructed and take sewage from  
Langley.

WIVELISCOMBE WITHOUT: 5,904 Acres. 950 Popn.,  
Sewers have been laid at Langley and Langley Marsh, and most of the  
properties are connected.

Four Council houses at Croford and certain other properties drain to  
septic tanks.

Other houses have pail closets.

#### Public Cleansing

Refuse Collections are made as follows :-

Weekly: Wiveliscombe and Milverton.

Monthly: Remainder of the district (except certain remote properties).

The Milverton tip was acquired compulsorily during the year and refuse  
is being disposed of by controlled tipping. This has substantially reduced  
complaints of nuisance and rat infestation.



Refuse from Wellington Urban District is disposed of by tipping in a disused sandpit at Whiteball. Little attempt is made to cover the refuse and nuisances and rat infestation occur. Tipping on this site must cease in the near future.

During the year the Council purchased a covered vehicle for the collection of refuse.

### Schools

The following improvements have been carried out :-

Nynehead :- The construction of a new sanitary block with a drainage connection to the sewer.

Chipstable :- The construction of drainage disposal works.

The water supply to Stawley School is contaminated and is chlorinated before use. Proposals are in hand for a supply to be obtained from the new borehole at Appley Cross Council Houses.

### Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

The following are details of inspections made during the year:-

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):-

Premises (1)	Number on Register. (3)	Number of		
		Inspection (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	11	13	2	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	24	53	4	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL -	35	66	6	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			TO H.M. Inspector	BY H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Want of cleanliness (S.I.)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	3	3	-	1	-
TOTAL	6	6	-	1	-

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following tabular statement is furnished by the Sanitary Inspector :-

Number and Nature of Inspections during the year 1952:-

Dwellinghouses.....	1325
Food Premises .....	99
Places where animals are kept (other than cowsheds).....	3
Infectious Diseases enquiries and disinfections.....	7
Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.....	66
Water supplies.....	276
Drainage.....	540
Miscellaneous.....	121
	<hr/>
	2437
	<hr/>



Number of Notices served during the year:-

Informal Notices.....	95
Statutory Notices.....	11

Result of Service of Notices:-

Total Notices complied with.....	92
Notices standing over at the end of 1952.....	14

Shops and Offices (Under the provisions of Sec. 13 (3) of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences of shops), visits made.....	9
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Camping Sites - Licences issued by the Council (Sec. 269 Public Health Act, 1936) authorising the use of moveable dwellings.....	17
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Applications refused.....	2
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Smoke Abatement - Complaints of nuisance dealt with and abatement secured.....	NIL
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Swimming Baths and Pools - 16 samples were taken for bac-teriological examination. All of these were reported as "satisfactory".

These are in respect of a swimming bath at Wiveliscombe which is fed by a spring subject to contamination. The water is chlorinated by the addition of a chlorine solution.

Eradication of Bed-bugs - Cases of bed bugs infestation found during the year.....	NIL
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Offensive Trades - Number of offensive trades in the District within the meaning of Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936.	NIL
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Water - Samples of piped supplies examined periodically during the year.....	144
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Bakehouses - Number of inspections of the five Bakehouses in the District.....	23
Four of the bakehouses now draw their water supply from public mains.	

Food Shops and Other Premises

Inspections are made with particular reference to :-

- (a) Detection of unsound food.
- (b) Enforcement of Sects. 13 and 14 of the Food and Drugs Act.
- (c) Enforcement of the Council's Byelaws.

Progress continues to be made in the provision of washing facilities etc.

Storage of food and cleanliness are generally satisfactory.

There are no Government Slaughterhouses or Bacon Factories in the District. Meat sold by retail has been examined prior to delivery but occasional small quantities are condemned.

The following foods were surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption :-

Canned foods..... 88 tins.  
Veal..... 24 lbs.  
Bacon..... 8 lbs.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks - No outbreaks of food poisoning have occurred in the District during the year under review.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1950.

Number of Registered retailers (not including producer-retailers)..... 2  
Inspections..... 5

Tuberculosis Order 1925

Cows slaughtered during the year under this order..... NIL

Ice-cream - There are one producer (Cold Mix) and two Retailers of pre-packed ice-cream.

Samples taken from the producer gave the following results:-

Two samples..... Grade 1.

Rodent Control - An operator is employed jointly with Taunton R.D.C. During the year the sewers, sewage disposal works and refuse dumps were treated systematically. Private dwelling-houses and business premises were also treated.

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	Total
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District.	8	1975	311	302	2596
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1952 as a result of (a) notification (b) survey or otherwise.	(a) -	63	-	2	65
	(b) 8	149	82	18	257
III. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by rats.	Major 4	20	13	NIL	47
	Minor 3	138	45	11	197



	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	Total
IV. Number of properties (under II) found to be seriously infested by mice.	-	21	-	1	22
V. Number of infested properties (under III) & (under IV) treated by the Local Authority.	7	179	2	4	192
VI. Number of notices served under Section 4:-					
(1) Treatment	-	NIL	21	11	32
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing)	-	NIL	2	1	3
VII. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4.	-	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
VIII. Legal Proceedings	-	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

IX. Number of "block" control schemes carried out.....11.

River Pollut-ion - Most of the streams in the district are polluted in varying degrees but until new sewage disposal works are provided or existing works are reconstructed (particularly those at Milverton and Hillsmoor, Wiveliscombe) there will be no improvement.

#### HOUSING.

Overcrowding - Seven houses were recorded as legally overcrowded at the end of the year.

19 houses condemned under the Housing Act, 1936 are still occupied under licence (Regulation 68A - Defence (General) Regulations, 1939).

In addition 12 cottages are under Requisition Orders by authority of the same Regulation.

Securing repair of cottages becomes more difficult with increasing cost of work and controlled rents. The continued deterioration of the older cottages and the unwillingness of owners to carry out repairs emphasize the

need for the re-introduction of Clearance Area procedure but this cannot be done until the requisite number of council houses can be allocated for this purpose. An additional difficulty is the inability by some tenants to pay the rents of new Council houses.

Some progress is being made by re-housing individual families and taking action under Sect: 11 of the Housing Act to secure that the house is not re-occupied. This procedure is slow and not entirely satisfactory.

The Rural Housing Survey, the major part of which has been completed, show that there are between 200 and 300 houses which are not capable of being made fit at a reasonable cost.

A few complete reconstructions are being carried out but vacant possession is usually necessary before this can be done.

### Council Houses

The following table shows the parishes in which the Council have erected houses under the various Acts :-

Parish	Address	No. of Houses	Total for Parish
Ashbrittle	Rectory Road	4	4
Bathealton	-	-	-
Bradford-on-Tone	Regents Green	4	
	Tone Green	8	12
Chipstable	Miltons	4	
	Waterrow	4	8
Fitzhead	Church Road	4	
	Hills Cottages	6	10
Langford Budville	Reynolds	6	6
Milverton	Lower Fairfield	8	
	Fairfield Terrace	8	
	Newfield	4	
	Courtfield	40	
	Houndsmoor	4	
	Doltons	2	
	Torrells, Hillcommon	4	
	Creedwell	6	76
Nynehead	Farthings Close	16	16
Oake	Bridge Cottages	4	
	Oake Close	6	10
Sampford Arundel	Breach Hill	4	4
Stawley	Appley Cross	4	4
Wellington W'out	Lake Cottages, Holywell Lake	4	4
West Buckland	Sawyers Hill	4	
	Holway Cottages	4	
	Budgetts Cross	8	
	Castle Cottages, Ham	26	
	Crown Hill	10	52
Wiveliscombe	Northgate	53	
	Southgate	28	81
Wiveliscombe	Croford	4	
Without	Langley Cross	14	
	Plain Pond	66	
	Langley Marsh	4	88

TOTAL 375



## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of notifications received for Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) age group and numbers admitted to Taunton Isolation Hospital :-

DISEASES	TOTAL	AGE GROUP								No. admitted to Isolation Hospital.
		0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25 and over	Not known	
Whooping Cough	6	1	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	3	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
	10	1	5	1	3	-	-	-	-	2

The following table shows some of the notification rates for Wellington Rural District compared with those for England and Wales taken as a whole.

DISEASE	Notification Rates for	
	Wellington R.D.	England and Wales
Whooping Cough	0.77	2.61
Measles	0.39	8.86
Scarlet Fever	0.13	1.53

The above figures are calculated Rates per 1,000 civilian population.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis - For the twelfth year in succession, no cases of diphtheria have occurred in the District. There is no doubt that this can be largely attributed to the immunisation campaign which has been in progress for the past twelve years. The disease incidence appears to be shifting from the most susceptible ages 0 to 15 years to the higher age groups. Immunisation is being carried out by the Medical Staff of the Somerset County Council and by General Medical Practitioners in the District. In the recent Circulars (193/45) and (194/45) issued by the Ministry of Health, stress is rightly laid on ensuring primary inoculation of as many pre-school and school children as possible. At the same time it must be remembered that, if Diphtheria is to be kept under control, the state of resistance of children who have received primary immunisation must be maintained by re-inoculation at suitable intervals. Infants of the age of 8 to 9 months should be immunised because one of every two unimmunised contracting the disease under the age of one year dies. By the time the child reaches school age, the primary stimulus of the earlier immunisation has waned, and, to remedy this, every child should be given a reinforcing dose of antigen before he begins School attendance.

It is estimated that there are in the district 1,724 children under the age of 15 years.

The following table gives the total number of children who are known to have have completed a course of immunisation at the ages stated:-

Age	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total under 15
Year of birth	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1943-47.	1938 - 42	
Number Immunised	3	61	71	82	82	361	146	806

#### TUBERCULOSIS. NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1952.

The following form of return is required by the Ministry of Health:-

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Age Periods	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -10.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 -15.....	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 -20.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -25.....	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -35.....	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
35 -45.....	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -55.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -65.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not known.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.....	2	2	1	-	-	1	-	-

At the end of the year the Tuberculosis Registers contained the names and addresses of 25 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 14 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

No action had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Tuberculosis in the milk trade, nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

#### PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

The Local Authority have no special arrangements of their own under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for assisting in the prevention and treatment of Blindness. Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, which used to be a potent cause of blindness, are promptly notified to the appropriate Department of the County Council and so obtain early treatment if necessary in the Isolation Hospital.





